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**Rutland in the Civil War
(Part 2 – The Home Front)**



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About the Author

Robert Ranftle joined the Rutland Historical Society in 2009, upon moving to Rutland. He is a member of the Exhibit Committee working on the multi-year Civil War commemorative project.

For some time, he has gathered and reviewed data for the project, and has also contributed to the Civil War exhibition that is currently on display at the Center Street building. This is the second quarterly issue that he has compiled and produced at the Society. The previous issue was: "Rutland in the Civil War – Part 1", Rutland Historical Society Quarterly (Vol. 41, No. 2).

Introduction

This issue is the second commemorating Rutland's participation and experience in the War of the Rebellion (the Civil War).

In it we tell the story of the town of Rutland as it was before and during the war, on the home front.

What was life like in Rutland prior to 1861, and how did that change over the 4-year course of the war?

This issue contains the following topics (articles):

Rutland Pre-war

Rutland Responds to the Call

Rutland During the War

Rutland Notables who Served

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Rutland in the Civil War

(Part 2)

By Robert Ranftle

Rutland Pre-War¹

In the early part of the 19th century, Rutland's growth had peaked, and the town took on the nature of a quiet country village. By 1860, several developments had changed Rutland into a bustling small city.

Marble quarrying on a large scale began in the 1830s. By 1860, more than 600 Rutlanders were employed by the three largest quarries.

In 1849, the railroad opened its Rutland-based lines, and in the 1850s Rutland became the railroad center of Vermont. Lines ran north and south, and west and southeast.

With the establishment of the railroad, the business center moved to its present downtown area, and spawned a number of smaller satellite industries and services.

Based on these developments, by the beginning of the Civil War Rutland and the immediate surrounding areas were flourishing.



RUTLAND IN RETROSPECT/ CARLOS W. NICHOLS, RUTLAND FREE LIBRARY

In 1852, the intersection of West and Main Streets was the commercial center of Rutland. Shown (center) are the Courthouse, built in 1792, and to its right The Franklin House, the leading hotel of the time. Both these buildings were destroyed by fire in 1868.

¹ "Rutland in Retrospect"



There were two commercial areas in Rutland during the Civil War. (top) The downtown area is shown: The Bardwell Hotel (left in photo) and Washington Engine Company fire station in Depot Park (right). (bottom) Center Street, the elevated road coming down from the hilltop connected the areas. The uptown area in the background was dominated by the Congregational Church and, to its right, the U.S. Courthouse and Post Office (now the library), The Rutland Academy with the Nickwackett Fire Station in front, and the Bank of Rutland.



This 1870 view of the west side of Merchants Row shows the completion of several blocks of the new commercial center. The tallest building is the opera house. On the far left in the distance is the complex of buildings that make up the railroad depot.

Technological Advances

Had the southern states seceded twenty years earlier, as was possible, the Civil War might have been an entirely different experience, both on the battlefield and at home. During the period 1840 – 1860, advances in technology brought about an environment which made the Civil War like none before it.

The telegraph had been established as a viable communications device in the 1840s, and had been used effectively in the Mexican – American War. This paved the way for communication by telegraph, for the benefit of military commanders both in the field and at headquarters in Washington.

Photography was in its infancy, but had advanced sufficiently to allow it to move outside studios and into the field in a limited way.² Thus, the Civil War was documented via photographs as well as other media.

Nationally, railroads provided transportation capabilities that were vastly improved, in comparison to previous modes of transportation.³

² "Time Exposure: The Autobiography of William H. Jackson"

³ "Noble Hearts: Civil War Vermont"

News Reporting

At the beginning of the Civil War, the Rutland Herald had the largest circulation in the state of Vermont. On April 29, 1861, the Herald began a daily edition, spurred by anticipated demand for news about the war.⁴

The telegraph made better, quicker dissemination of news possible (many of the Rutland Herald articles were preceded with: "By Telegraph"), as did in-the-field correspondents and news agencies such as the New York Associated Press, which had been founded in 1848.

As a result of the establishment of the railroad, mail delivery was much improved, creating the potential for private mail to be an important source of current news.

The National Dilemma: Reasons for going to war⁵

Then, as always, there were questions about the moral imperative for war. Vermont had many years earlier taken its stance against slavery. The question was what, if anything, should be done about it in the current crisis environment (late 1850s).

The anti-slavery movement had begun in the Northeast in the 1830s. This was strongest in Massachusetts, but had its pockets of determined advocates in other states as well, eager to promote their point of view.

There were two basic interpretations of the term anti-slavery. One was the Abolitionist view, which held that slavery must be abolished wherever it existed – north, south or territory. Another was that slavery must not be expanded into the new territories - which would become states - but could be left unimpeded in existing (i.e. Southern) states.

Policy until that time had been a patchwork of compromises, which postponed the inevitable confrontation that was now upon the nation.

In Vermont, anti-slavery groups existed, and sought to maintain a public discussion, as they felt that indifference toward the existence of slavery in a free nation could not be maintained in an honest debate.

As secession became a possibility, the question of the extent of states' rights emerged – Did states have an uncontestable right to self-determination, regarding the owning of property (in this case slaves)? Did states have a right to secede, what were the consequences, and should they be prevented from doing so?

⁴ Tyler Resch, "History of the Rutland Herald", Rutland Herald, Rutland, VT.

⁵ Information in this section was taken from "Noble Hearts: Civil War Vermont"

Given all these issues, if the Northern States went to war, what would be the reasons and goals?

Suddenly, with the attack on Fort Sumter, all of this exploded on a nation (both North and South) that was ill-prepared go to war. In the minds of many in the North, the attack on the colors superseded all political and social questions; the southern states were "Rebels" who must be brought to heel.

It was this groundswell of emotion that fueled the spirit of volunteerism throughout the Union that characterized the early stages of the war.

John Brown's Body: A harbinger of things to come

On December 8, 1859 an odd occurrence took place in Rutland - that being the arrival of the body of staunch Abolitionist John Brown, who had been hanged for leading the raid on Harper's Ferry, Virginia.

The Rutland Herald described it:

"The body of John Brown, accompanied by Mrs. Brown, Wendell Phillips, and J.M. McKim of Philadelphia arrived in this place by the Rutland and Washington train Monday night on its way to North Elba, N.Y., for burial. Mrs. Brown and the gentlemen accompanying her, remained at the Bardwell House Monday night, and left next morning by the early train for Vergennes, whence the body was to be taken across the lake to Moriah, and thence to North Elba, where the funeral takes place today. The Burlington Times is informed that the outer box enclosing the coffin was considerably cut and hacked by persons who had taken chips from it as mementos of the old "Scotch Covenant". The body remained at the depot while in this place, and but few knew at that time of its arrival here."⁶

As the Herald observes, few people took note of the passing of the body through town. Had they known at the time the events which would follow, this particular event would have been much more noteworthy.

It has been established that, sometime after the war, Jefferson Davis passed through Rutland on his way to Canada, as persona-non-grata. When exactly this took place is not known, nor are any of the details.

Essentially, these two events were the "bookends" for the Civil War in the town of Rutland.

⁶ Rutland Weekly Herald, December 9, 1859

Rutland Responds to the Call

All told over 33,000 men were enlisted in the armed services in Vermont during the Civil War.⁷

The chart below shows the demand for men throughout the war, and the response made by Vermont. Rutland's response is summarized after the chart.⁸

Dates	Calls Issued by President	Vermont Response / Units Created
4/61	75,000 men for 90 days	Gov. Holbrook orders state militias filled. Vermont 1st Regiment (created).
7/61	500,000 for 3 years	6/61 thru 10/61 Vermont 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th Infantries. 11/61 1st Vermont Cavalry. 2/62 Vermont 7th, 8th Regiments; 1st, 2nd Light Artillery; 1st, 2nd, 3rd U.S. Sharpshooters. 7/62 Vermont 9th Regiment.
4/62	War Dept. ceases recruiting	
7/62	300,000 men for 3 years; quotas established.	9/62 Vermont 10th, 11th Infantries.
8/62	300,000 men for 9 months; draft authorized	8/62 thru 10/62 Vermont 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th Infantries. 8/63 Vermont 17th Regiment; 3rd Light Artillery.
3/63	Enrollment Act: classes for military service are created.	
10/63	300,000 men for 3 years	Quota met; replenish existing units
2/64	200,000 men for 3 years (under the 10/63 call, increasing it to 500,000)	Quota met; replenish existing units
7/64	500,000 men for 1,2,3 years	Quota met; replenish existing units
12/64	300,000 men for 1,2,3 years	Quota met; replenish existing units

⁷ "Noble Hearts: Civil War Vermont"

⁸ Information about formation of the units was taken from "Vermont in the Civil War".

According to Vermont in the Civil War, “There are currently 1152 soldiers credited to, born in, or buried in Rutland, VT. Of these, 893 are credited to the town, 77 were born there (research is far from complete for this figure), and 547 are buried there. In addition, 196 were drafted, but did not serve.”⁹

The category “credited to” includes anyone who entered the service in Rutland, whether or not they were citizens of Rutland. Nonetheless, throughout the long war, Rutland did its share.

Recruiting was done at the town level (e.g. the Rutland Light Guards), the County level, and the statewide level. Rutland was represented in almost all units of volunteers; the following are some facts of this participation:

The 7th Infantry included over 170 men credited to Rutland, the largest number of Rutlanders credited to any unit in the Union Army. This Regiment spent almost all its time in the deep South, and fought at the Battle of Baton Rouge.

In May, 1861 the Rutland Light Guards almost to a man volunteered for service, and joined the Union army as a unit (Co. K, 1st Regiment). A very high percentage of this company hailed from Rutland and surrounding towns.

Members of the Light Guards recruited company K of the 12th Regiment in 1862. This unit, mostly Rutlanders, included: Levi G. Kingsley, John A. Mead (future governor of Vermont), William H. Jackson (featured in this issue) and Charles H. Ripley.¹⁰

Company B of the 12th Regiment and Company H of the 14th Regiment were recruited from Rutland County.

Because of the broad meaning of the term “credited to”, and because the data on birthplace and place of residence are often unavailable, we cannot draw conclusions beyond those above as to specific participation of Rutland citizens.

However, while it is true that some men who were “credited to” Rutland were not Rutlanders, it is also true that there were men who were not credited to Rutland who were in fact “Rutlanders” in every sense of the word. (In some cases, these men came to Rutland after the war.)

⁹ “Vermont in the Civil War”

¹⁰ “Rutland in Retrospect”

Wheelock G. Veazey and Redfield Proctor are examples of men who are not recognized in some sources as being Rutlanders, but whose contributions to the town are a matter of record.

Conscription

Pursuant to actions by President Lincoln in July and August, 1862, and anticipating the draft, Rutland and other towns were required to list all able-bodied males between the ages of 18 and 45 who would then be eligible for military service. These lists were consolidated at the office of the Adjutant General of the State.

In March, 1863, the (Federal) Enrollment Act created quotas and the draft. These quotas were established by Congressional District. Quotas by sub-districts were then established by state and local officials.

On July 23, 1863 a draft was conducted in Rutland.

According to the Rutland Herald:¹¹

"The draft for the fourth sub-district was made yesterday forenoon, at the Town Hall.

The Hall was crowded, and the drawing proceeded with the best possible good humor on the part of those present, many of the names as they were announced being received with much cheering."

"The towns composing this Sub-District were: Rutland, Chittenden, Mendon, Sherburne, Pittsfield, and Shrewsbury."

"The draft here, as elsewhere, was impartial in its dealings with the different classes of citizens."

The Herald listed some of the more notable draftees and their occupations:

Rockwood Barrett of Barrett & Son, dealers in hardware, groceries &c

Ben K. Chase, jeweler;

Norman Clark of Clark & Bros. Jewelers;

Geo. Dunklee, late crockery dealer;

Francis Fenn, druggist;

B. F. French of the firm of French and Kingsley, dealers in flour &c.;

E. B. Gilson, clerk of the Bank of Rutland;

Jay Gould, Superintendent of Rutland and Washington Railroad;

G. R. Hitt, teacher;

Dr. Lewis T. Lawton, dentist;

John McKeogh of Jay Gould's office;

D. G. Moore, principal of the high school;

John B. Reynolds, cashier of the Bank of Rutland;

¹¹ The Rutland Herald, July 23, 1863.

S. W. Rowell, teller of the Bank of Rutland;
 Rev. Norman Seaver, a highly esteemed clergyman;
 N. P. Simons, deputy sheriff;
 Harley C. Tuttle, bookbinder;
 Geo. L. Vance of Goodnow and Vance, boot and shoe dealers

Approximately 260 names were drawn to meet the requirement.

This was the only statewide draft conducted during the war. Although there were continued calls for service, to be filled by conscripts if necessary, the calls were met in Rutland by volunteers, re-enlistments, and substitutions.

Bounties

Throughout the war, fewer than 10% of Vermont enlistees came via the draft. In the early years, this was due to the groundswell of enthusiasm and patriotism that met the fall of Fort Sumter. Later, it was bounties paid that assisted in keeping numbers of volunteers far in excess of the numbers of draftees.

As the war wore on without resolution, it was recognized by Northern states that it would be difficult to maintain required troop levels using only volunteers.¹²

The draft was one way that problem was addressed. However, towns were reluctant to be seen around the state as having to resort to conscription to meet their obligations.

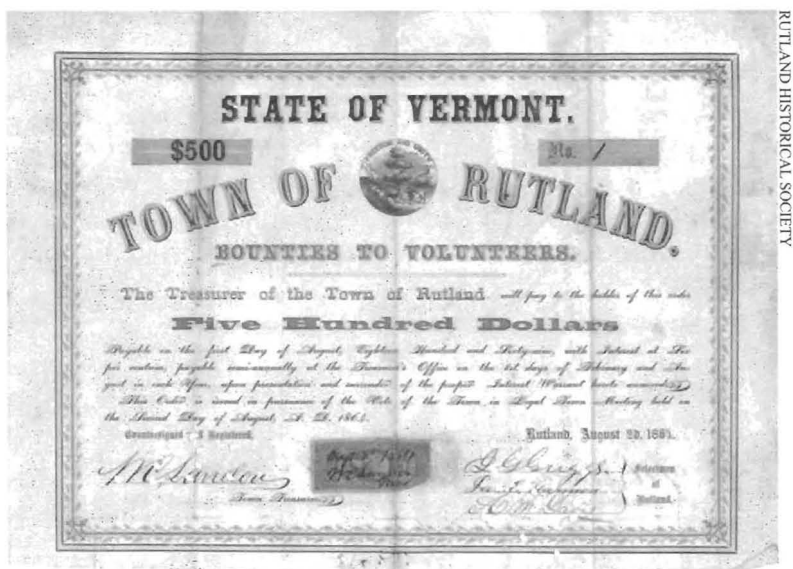
Bounties were an alternative to conscription. These were incentives that were created, mainly at the town level, to procure the necessary number of men to meet the quota. In Rutland, the following figures summarize the expense incurred to maintain the flow of volunteers and re-enlistees into service.¹³

President's Call	Report Year	Total Paid	No. of Bounties
7/62 300,000 men	1863	\$16,806.58	163
10/63 300,000 men	1864	\$61,825.00	125
7/64 500,000 men	1865	\$56,670.37	78
12/64 300,000 men	1865	\$33,386.00	54

¹² Conditions were much more serious in the South, where conscriptions started during the first year of the war.

¹³ "The Town of Rutland Selectmen Report", 1863, 1864, 1865 (RHS)

The bounties themselves were notes drawn on the town, payable on maturity, with interim interest payments.



1864 Bounty, with maturity of 5 years and semi-annual interest.

In the 1864 Rutland Town report, it is noted that the amounts paid were higher than expected, because the town avoided dealing with “bounty jumpers”, who would take the money and run rather than serve as agreed – a recognition that corruption is ever-present.

The Robber Baron who paid his dues in Rutland

On the list of names and occupations of draftees, you will find “Jay Gould, Superintendant of Rutland and Washington Railroad”. That is the same Jay Gould who went on to become one of the most infamous “robber barons” of the 19th century.

At the time, he was a resident of Rutland, and was just getting his start in the railroad business, where he would make part of his fortune. He happened to be in Rutland because he had received information that the railroad was a good speculative opportunity.

The war record for Mr. Gould is incomplete, but he clearly did not serve, as it is known that he spent the war years in other endeavors, including speculating in gold and dollars. Anecdotal evidence suggests he paid a commutation fee, a trifling amount for such a man. It is also possible that he was excused from service, as railroads were a vital resource to the war effort. In any case, it is certain that he had to provide compensation of some sort in order to avoid military service – probably one of the few times in his life he had to “pay up”.

Their Share of the Glory - Rutland African Americans in the Civil War¹⁴

Note: Vermont was the first colony to abolish slavery. (Second article in Vermont's Constitution, originally written in 1777)

In 1861, there were 92 African Americans in Rutland (out of a total population of over 7,500), nearly 10% of the state's total number of African Americans. They were farmers, teamsters, laborers; few were runaway slaves. When calls for volunteers were made in April, 1861, African Americans were not permitted to respond.

When the Emancipation Proclamation executive order was issued by President Lincoln on January 1, 1863, Massachusetts took the initiative to form the Massachusetts 54th Infantry, a "colored" unit. African Americans from all over the northeast volunteered for this service.

Twenty Rutland African Americans entered service in the 54th.

The unit was formed and departed for the Charleston, S.C. area, arriving in June, 1863 as part of the force besieging Charleston.

Over the next 22 months, the 54th served with distinction, including:

Dates	Location(s)	Action
7/63	James Island, S.C.	The regiment was instrumental in rescuing the 10th Connecticut Infantry
7/63	Fort Wagner, S.C.	50% of the regiment was lost in heavy fighting.
Early '64	Olustee, Fla	Engaged the enemy at Olustee, Florida (attempt to win back Florida to the Union).
'64 – Early 65	Charleston, S.C.	Participated in the capture and occupation of the city.
Early '65	Georgetown, S.C.	Capture and destruction of rebel assets, mainly railroad. This also included the freeing of over 6,000 contrabands (slaves).

In April of 1865, while in the field, joy turned to grief as the unit learned in quick succession of Lee's surrender at Appomattox, and the assassination of President Lincoln. Shortly thereafter, the unit returned to Charleston, and mustered out on August 20, 1865.

The surviving Rutland African Americans thereupon returned home, and resumed their civilian lives. Some joined the Roberts Post #14 of the GAR.

¹⁴ This is a brief summary of Rutland Historical Society Quarterly Volume XXII No. 2 "Their Share of the Glory – Rutland Blacks in the Civil War"

Rutland During the War

The magnitude of change in the daily life of Vermonters depended largely on the economy and demographics of each town. Although Rutland did not flourish during the war the way it had just prior to it, the town's diversity of business, its transportation advantages and its skilled industrial workforce helped to keep things moving along.¹⁵

Business with the southern states had been lost, but was largely compensated for by new business with the Army and the government. Innovative ways of adapting were common, including shift and part-time work, seasonal work, migration from town-to-town and changed roles in the workplace and at home.¹⁶

While the economy and business were somewhat affected, the fabric of home life was substantially redefined.

With the rapid succession of calls and the surge of volunteers, large numbers of men went off to war. Enlistment times varied; within the first fifteen months, 90-day units, 3-year units, and 9-month units all were formed.

Based on faulty assessments regarding the willingness and abilities of the South as a military force, expectations were high for a quick, successful conclusion of the war.

A significant event for all the home fronts of the North was the Battle of Bull Run in July, 1861. The decisive victory by the South established clearly that they would not be defeated easily, and that hopes that the war would be settled successfully by end of summer, as some had predicted, were unrealistic.

Families weighed possibilities among themselves.

For the families of the 90 day men and later the 9-month men, the concerns were whether the men would be released on time, and then would they re-enlist? Loved ones worried that if the men came back, and did not re-enlist, they would not be happy sitting by while others did the fighting. At the same time, they dreaded a long period of separation caused by the war.

For the families of the 3 year men, the simple question was: How long will it take and when will it end?

¹⁵ "Rutland in Retrospect"

¹⁶ "Noble Hearts: Vermont in the Civil War"

At home, roles that had been played by men, women and children were re-established from the ground up. Businesses had to be maintained, crops had to be planted and reaped, children had to be raised – all without the presence of the men who were away, many never to return. Each family had its own set of issues that they themselves had to deal with.

For all, uncertainties were a way of life, and moods and outlooks swung back and forth, as news reports were received.

At the same time, the spirit of community in Rutland, always strong, provided some relief in the knowledge that the war was something everyone faced, and the way to get through it was to stick together and persevere.

Reporting of the War

As discussed earlier, improvements in technology, the development of railroads, and the evolution of news services and methods resulted in news flowing from the front in speeds and volumes that were unprecedented. This helped create an informed and involved citizenry.

Newspapers had assumed the role of opinion leaders, such as they are today. During the Civil War, with its multiple and multi-faceted issues, newspapers expressed their opinions on the key questions:

Should slavery be abolished?

Should slavery be limited to territory where it existed at the time?

Should slavery be continued via compromise as it had been for decades?

As the crisis increased in its intensity, and secession loomed, the nation asked:

Do states have a constitutional right to secede?

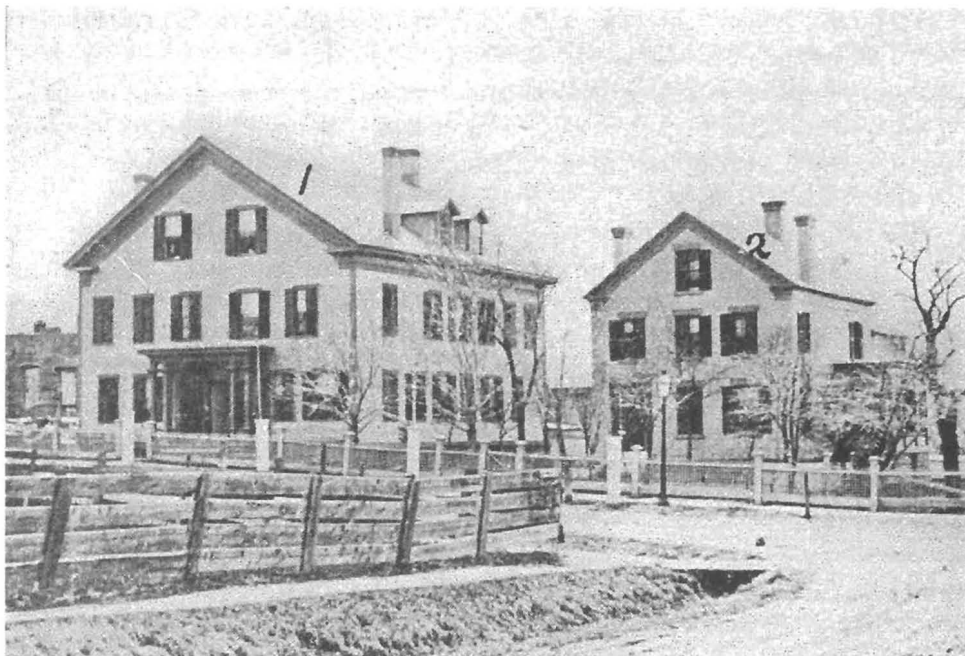
Is the Union (i.e. remaining states) justified, constitutionally or morally, in preventing secession via military action?

Is the Union justified in freeing the slaves, in the course of preserving the union? (More broadly, what should be the status of slavery in a reconstituted nation?)

Then, questions about the prosecution of the war also arose, as concerns about the capabilities of Union leadership emerged.

The news media took on the task of both asking and answering these questions.

Not surprisingly, given the multiplicity of issues, there was much debate in the ranks as to just what course of action should be taken.



The George A. Tuttle Printing Company and Book Store (left) housed the Rutland Herald in 1860. A new building for the Herald was built downtown in 1865.

The leading newspaper in Rutland at the time was the Rutland Herald. By and large, the Herald supported the Lincoln administration in its measured actions both before the attack on Fort Sumter and then during the war. That is to say, the paper supported the re-establishment of the Union by military action, with an end to hostilities at the point that goal had been met.

When Emancipation was passed into law on September 22, 1862 (to take effect the next January 1), the Herald supported it as being a military necessity – the best way to weaken the South and win the war – rather than a humanitarian effort to free the slaves.¹⁷

These were distinctions in purpose that were being debated throughout the North.

The Herald continued its support for the President throughout the difficult year 1864, an election year, often ridiculing the Democrats as being weak and indecisive.

These views were shared by many (but not all) people in the North, and views in the news media were similarly divided.

¹⁷ The Rutland Herald, January 8, 1863

Newspapers of the day were not shy about voicing their opinions. A competitor of the Rutland Herald at the time was the Rutland Courier. These publications sometimes had disagreements which they “discussed” on their editorial pages. In one episode, the Herald calls the Courier “dull and stupid”, for taking a position with which the Herald disagreed. (The Herald objected to the Courier’s defense of the Copperhead Clement Vallandigham, among other things.)¹⁸

Herald targets during the early stages of the war also included Charles Sumner and Gerritt Smith, abolitionists, who were called “The Abettors of Jeff. (sic) Davis”.¹⁹

The Herald was not averse to taking on giants of the industry, including Horace Greeley and Henry Raymond, editors of the New York Tribune and the New York Times respectively. These two especially were vocal (and influential) in stating opinions about the war that sometimes conflicted with grassroots ways of looking at things. Local publications sometimes felt the need to speak out against “the establishment”.

From all appearances opinions, although sensationally expressed, were honestly held and based on a sense of duty, of wanting to do their part for the country (even though they could not always agree among themselves what that was).

The mostly supportive tone of the media complemented the consistent dedication of the citizens of Vermont. During the war, Vermont was always able to fill the ranks, throughout a series of no fewer than eight calls by the President. The ability of the people to maintain such commitment to the purpose would probably be difficult to duplicate in modern times.

Personal Communication

Aside from newspaper reporting, other forms of reporting of the war included letters home and in-person conversation.

Letters flowed in both directions between military encampments and home towns, aided in no small part by the railroads that were by now the trunk line of the country’s internal transportation network.

With sporadic lulls in the fighting, and pauses during winter, with periods of recuperation from injuries and illness, and also with the ending of 90 day and 9-month enlistments, men were able to spend time at home. They were thus able to bring first-hand descriptions of command decisions, actions in the field and the daily life of soldiers.

¹⁸ The Rutland Herald, May 29, 1862.

¹⁹ The Rutland Herald, December 5, 1861

In the winter of 1863-64, in some situations, wives were able to visit husbands in camp.²⁰

All of these means of communication kept people at home informed, and enabled interaction among loved ones, in ways that were not possible in earlier wars.

Organized Support for the Troops

One responsibility that came to the home front at the outset of war, in addition to seeing to the needs of family and business, was the support and care of the troops in the field. The Union was building a fighting force; just arming the men and readying them to perform as combat units was a daunting task.

Properly providing for the every-day needs of the men was simply not possible in the time available; fortunately, women were able to pick up much of the slack.

Jane Betsy Ripley and the U. S. Sanitary Commission

When war broke out in April, 1861, all of Rutland was eager to support and preserve the union which had done so much to provide the freedom they enjoyed. Men volunteered in droves to form the military units that were sent into battle. On the home front, those left behind searched for ways they could help, while maintaining some semblance of the lives they had built as families and members of the community.

Ladies auxiliaries and soldiers' aid groups were formed, to organize and assist efforts to support the troops.

Those efforts quickly found structure with the establishment of the United States Sanitary Commission on June 18, 1861. Created as an official agency of the US government, the commission's charge was to coordinate the activities of women who wanted to support the war effort, via their time and skills, as workers for procurement of needed food and supplies.²¹

Rutland's Jane Betsy Ripley became the principal organizer for the Sanitary Commission in Rutland County.

"Clothing of all sorts was collected, sorted and shipped where it would do the most good. Sweaters, socks and scarves were knitted, bandages rolled and medicines collected, victuals of all kinds, never without the maple syrup the boys kept asking for, packed and shipped off to supplement the soldiers' skimpy rations.

²⁰ "Noble Hearts: Civil War Vermont"

²¹ The U.S.S.C. Website, www.forttejon.org/ussc/ussc.html

It was her responsibility to see that each town did its bit, and that all the packages were properly packed, addressed and shipped.”²²

Towns within Rutland County that responded to the call and submitted packages included:

Benson	North Clarendon
Brandon	Rutland
Castleton	Sherburne (now Killington)
Clarendon	Sudbury
Fair Haven	West Haven
Ira	West Pawlet
Middletown	West Rutland
Mount Holly	

Detailed lists of contributions made by towns were kept by Mrs. Ripley, and monthly these lists were published in the Rutland Herald, to demonstrate to the public the continuing and enthusiastic support for the troops. Mrs. Ripley prepared and published these articles, signing “Mrs. William Y. Ripley, Cor. Sec.” (Corresponding Secretary).

Mrs. Ripley continued this work for the entire four year duration of the war. The Commission, having achieved its stated purpose, was disbanded in May, 1866.

Rutland Notables Who Served

One goal of our series of Civil War Quarterlies is to present as many different war experiences as possible. In this issue, we take a look at some of the professionals who served, lending their considerable talents for a time. For these individuals, the contributions consisted of bringing unique skills to bear on existing problems and needs of the armed services.

Rutland was blessed to have a large number of skilled professionals resident in town, even if only for a period of their lives. In this issue, we present two of them:

William H. Jackson (photographer, painter, writer)

Charles L. Allen (surgeon)

²² “With Pen or Sword – Lives and Times of the Remarkable Rutland Ripleys”

William Henry Jackson²³



WIKIPEDIA US-MOH-1862

William Henry Jackson was a renowned photographer, painter and writer who was active in his trades until his death in 1942, at age 98.

He was born and raised in New York State. By the time he was ten he had already developed an interest in drawing, and spent much of his spare time at that activity, receiving direction from his mother, a talented water-colorist. At thirteen, he got a job drawing window cards for one of his employers, a chemist. He subsequently drew window screens, a form of artwork on

actual screens that was popular at the time.

Mr. Jackson started his career in photography in 1857 (age 14), in a portrait gallery, as a retoucher. This was a time when photography was experiencing a series of breakthroughs, mainly in the ability to duplicate and copy prints, and work in artist studios was growing rapidly. This provided Mr. Jackson the opportunity to learn photography while the state-of-the-art was being defined. Thus he was assured of profitable employment for years, as he was able to develop his skills along with the progress of the times.

Mr. Jackson came to Rutland in late 1860 or early 1861, to work as an artist for Frank Mowry. He took up residence on Center Street, with a family named Fisher, and lived that way for more than a year.

He was very much influenced by Abraham Lincoln and the election of 1860, and considered carefully the choice between staying and developing his career, or enlisting to fight in the war. On April 18, 1862, he became a member of the Rutland Light Guard, presenting himself for enlistment to General Levi Kingsley, and joined Company K of the 12th Vermont Infantry.

Almost immediately in his company and regiment, he gained recognition for his skill at drawing, especially on small cards for letters home. (For this, he called on his experiences drawing window cards and screens.)

²³ Information in this section is from "Time Exposure – the Autobiography of William H. Jackson"

By early 1863, his artwork had become widely-known within military circles. He was assigned to prepare drawings and sketches to help with the designing of breastworks and trenches. He spent most of the first half of 1863 at that assignment, and also drawing maps for the command officers.

As a soldier in the 12th, he was part of General Meade's march through Maryland and Virginia to meet the Rebels at Gettysburg. During the battle, he and the 12th were on guard duty. Subsequently, they marched 2,300 prisoners to Baltimore.

Within a week of the end of Gettysburg, the 12th was mustered out. Mr. Jackson returned to Rutland to resume his position with Mowry.

After the Civil War, he worked in photographic studios in Rutland and in Burlington, before heading west in early 1865. He went on to gain fame as an artist, photographer and writer; his photography was instrumental in the establishment, by the U.S. Congress, of Yellowstone National Park.

Mr. Jackson attended the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg in 1938.

Mr. Jackson also marched in the last Civil War veterans parade in New York City, where he resided, in May, 1940.

Mr. Jackson is buried in Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia.

Dr. Charles L. Allen²⁴

(Note: President Lincoln's proclamation on May 3, 1861, and acts of Congress of that year called for the appointment of volunteer medical officers to positions of medical directors and brigade surgeons, the hiring of civilian doctors under contract to serve as assistant surgeons, and the establishment of a corps of medical cadets to serve in hospitals and in the field as ambulance attendants. In total there were over 11,000 medical professionals appointed to these positions. Logistical and administrative problems involved in medical care were imposing and were mainly handled by those commissioned as Brigade Surgeon of volunteers.)

(Note: The responsibilities of Medical Purveyors in the Union Army included the selection and procurement of all medical supplies and equipment, as well as supporting equipment such as instruments, furniture etc. for the organization in which the position existed. Also included were the administration, control and issuance of those supplies and equipment.)

²⁴ Vermont Historical Society

Dr. Charles Allen was born in 1820 in Middlebury, Vermont; his father was the principal consulting physician and surgeon in the area. Dr. Allen graduated from Middlebury College in 1842, and then studied medicine under his father, also studying at Castleton Medical College, from which he graduated in 1846. He entered into practice with his father, taking over entirely when the elder Dr. Allen died in 1848.

During the 1850s, Dr. Allen held teaching and administrative positions at Castleton College. He was active in his profession, being elected president of the Vermont State Medical Society in 1858, and serving a number of times as a delegate to the American Medical Association conventions.

In late spring 1861, Dr. Allen was named professor of surgery at Castleton College, when his predecessor became regimental surgeon in the 1st Vermont Infantry.

In the fall of 1861 Dr. Allen, who resided in Rutland, was appointed to the medical board to examine candidates for surgeon and assistant surgeon of Vermont's volunteers. In 1862 Dr. Allen served briefly as professor of medicine at the University of Vermont, as well as serving on the State Board of Medical Examiners. When Vermont troops went into action at Yorktown, Allen received a letter from the governor telling him to prepare to be called. As casualties returned to Vermont, Allen, helped by medical students, was responsible for the care of the wounded and sick.

In June, 1862 President Lincoln appointed Dr. Allen Brigade Surgeon of volunteers, with the rank of Major. He was one of three surgeons on the Board for Examining Candidates for Surgeons and Assistant Surgeons of Volunteers of the United States Army, at Washington D.C. He remained on this board until January 1864.

On January 15, 1864, Dr. Allen was assigned to the Department of the South, headquartered at Beaufort, S.C. There he took charge of General Hospital No. 2, serving as the Department's second ranking medical surgeon.

In April 1864, he was appointed Medical Purveyor of the Department of the South and sent to Hilton Head, S.C., where he remained until his resignation in September 1864.

Dr. Charles Allen and M. Gertrude Lyon were married at Middlesex, Pennsylvania, on May 31, 1865.

They returned to Rutland, where he resumed a successful private practice. Subsequently, Dr. Allen assumed various appointments, including Secretary of the Vermont State Board of Health (1886-1890) and President of the U.S. Board of Pension Surgeons (1880)

The Allens lived at 76 Main St. They raised three sons and a daughter. Gertrude Allen died in 1889 and Dr. Charles Allen died the following year.

Conclusion

The stories of Rutland and Rutlanders during the Civil War are many and varied. We have attempted to provide a cross-section of life during that time, both in the town and on the battlefield.

It is said that the Civil War was one of the most written-about and studied events in history. We can certainly attest to the truth of that assertion, as in our research we've seen that just about every facet of the war is covered adequately in some medium or another.

We are just now entering the 4-year period of commemoration of the Civil War. During that time, the Rutland Historical Society via the Quarterlies will continue to present relevant and timely articles, and will continue to expand the online information sources for war-related topics.

Sources

Main sources for this quarterly are:

Rutland Historical Society, *Rutland in Retrospect* (Rutland, VT: Academy Books, 1978)

Otto Eisenschiml (Editor), *Vermont General – The Unusual War Experiences of Edward Hastings Ripley (1862 – 1865)* (New York, NY: The Devin-Adair Co., 1960)

Robert G. Steele, *With Pen or Sword – Lives and Times of the Remarkable Ripleys* (New York, NY: Vantage Press, Inc., 1979)

William Henry Jackson, *Time Exposure – The Autobiography of William H. Jackson* (New York, NY: Cooper Square Publishers, Inc.)

Some additional sources are:

“Noble Hearts: Civil War Vermont”; a broadcast by Vermont Public Television

Vermont in the Civil War: www.vermontcivilwar.org/index.php

For Further Reading

A number of books can be found on the free Internet Archive. Go to “archive.org”, select “text” and place the book title in the search box at the top. You may read the book on-line or you may also download the complete book in a few minutes. It is all FREE.

Here are six (6) titles that are available:

- 1. Revised Roster of Vermont Volunteers
- 2. Vermont in the Civil War (2 Vol.) –G.G. Benedict
- 3. Vermont Riflemen in the War for the Union – William Y. W. Ripley
- 4. History of Rutland County, Vermont – Smith & Rann
- 5. The Vermont Brigade in the Shenandoah Valley – Aldace F. Walker
- 6. Narrative of the Service of the Officers and Enlisted men of the 7th Regiment of Vermont – William Holbrook

Rutland Historical Society Quarterlies related to the Civil War are available on our web site (rutlandhistory.com). These include the following titles:

Vol. X	No. 2 Rutland Light Guards
Vol. XXII	No. 2 Rutland Blacks in the Civil War
Vol. XXIII	No. 3 Horace Henry Baxter
Vol. XXIV	No. 2 John T. Kelly –Civil War Diary
Vol. XXV	No. 2 General Wheelock G. Veazey
Vol. XXVIII	No. 1 Civil War Diary of Charles B. Mead
Vol. 32	No. 1 Final Civil War Diary of Charles Mead
Vol. 41	No. 1 Rutland in the Civil War (Part 1)